

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

Region 4

245 West Broadway, Suite 350

Long Beach, CA 90802-4444



March 16, 1992

Dear Interested Party:

NESI SITE (ASCON) REMOVAL ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Last minute problems with permits required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) have temporarily delayed the scheduled removal activities at the NESI Site (Ascon Landfill).

The site is located at the southwest corner of Magnolia and Hamilton in the City of Huntington Beach. The pending removal activities are a part of the ongoing investigation and cleanup of hazardous waste contamination being conducted by the NESI group under the direction of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The removal action will involve pumping out and recycling an estimated six million gallons of petroleum-based sludge.

AQMD is requiring two permits for the removal activities: one for the operation of the diesel pump motor and the second for the excavation activities. The delay is a result of AQMD's decision to regulate the pump motor, which is similar to a diesel truck engine, as a stationary emission source rather than a mobile one. Consequently, AQMD is requiring one of the following modifications before approving the permit:

- o retrofitting the engine to include a catalytic converter and 25 foot high stack; or
- o replacing the engine with an electric motor.

DTSC and NESI believe that an electrical motor would be unsafe because of the close proximity to water and risk of electrocution. The retrofitting option would cost a minimum of \$100,000 and take at least three months to design and build.

NESI is currently appealing the AQMD decision. The second permit, covering the excavation activities, is on hold pending resolution of the pump issue.

On a separate track, the removal process has been modified because of difficulties encountered in lowering the viscosity of the oily waste. This is necessary so that it can be off-loaded from the pump trucks at the recycling facility.



Dear Interested Party

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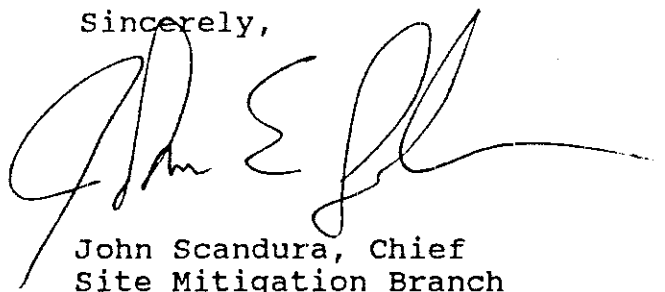
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The revised, no-heat system will reduce the density of the waste so that it can be more easily handled. The system will employ transportable tanks equipped with electrically-driven blending equipment. The oily waste will be pumped into these tanks and mixed with an additive to lower its viscosity. It will then be pumped into vacuum trucks and transported to the recycling facility. As before, the entire system will be enclosed. The specialized equipment for this process has been ordered and is expected on site in mid-March.

Although the removal activities have been suspended, work is continuing on the remedial investigation. With the exception of additional groundwater monitoring, sampling activities have been completed and the draft report is being prepared. The information gathered in this report will be used to evaluate potential clean up alternatives in the feasibility study.

We appreciate your concerns and patience throughout this process. DTSC is doing everything it can to keep the removal on schedule and will continue to update you on the status of the project. For additional information about the NESI site, or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pat Davis on the NESI hotline at (714) 379-1310 or Kristin Stultz Andersen, DTSC public participation coordinator, at (310) 590-4991.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Scandura', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Scandura, Chief
Site Mitigation Branch